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Claims

1. A method for modulating growth-factor activation comprising contacting a cell or an organism which contains a growth-factor receptor capable of being activated with a modulator of G-protein mediated signal transduction.
2. The method of use of claim 1, wherein the activation of the growth-factor receptor is mediated by its extracellular domain.
3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the activation of the growth-factor receptor is mediated via an extracellular signal pathway.
4. The method of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the growth-factor receptor is activated by tyrosine phosphorylation.
5. The method of any one of the previous claims, wherein said growth-factor receptor is EGFR.
6. The method of any one of the previous claims wherein the modulator acts on a G-protein, a G-protein coupled receptor and/or a proteinase.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the modulator acts on a proteinase.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein said modulator acts on said proteinase by directly stimulating or inhibiting the proteinase activity.
9. The method of any one of claims 7 or 8, wherein said proteinase cleaves a growth-factor ligand precursor.

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10. The method of ~~claim 9~~, wherein said precursor is a membrane-associated molecule.

11. The method of ~~claim 9 or 10~~, wherein said growth factor ligand precursor is proHB-EGF and said growth-factor receptor is EGFR.

12. The method of ~~any one of claims 7-14~~, wherein said proteinase is a membrane-associated proteinase.

10 13. The method of ~~any one of the claims 7-12~~, wherein said proteinase is a metalloproteinase.

14. The method of ~~claim 13~~, wherein said metalloproteinase is a zinc-dependent proteinase.

15 15. The method of ~~any one of claims 7 to 14~~, wherein said proteinase activity is inhibited by batimastat.

20 16. The method of ~~any one of the previous claims~~, wherein said modulator acts on cell which is different from the cell which contains the growth-factor.

25 17. The method of ~~any one of the previous claims~~ for the prevention or treatment of disorders associated with or accompanied by a disturbed, e.g. pathologically enhanced growth-factor receptor activation.

30 18. The method of claim 17 for the treatment of cancer or asthma.

35 19. The method of ~~any one of the previous claims~~, wherein said modulator is administered as a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable composition~~ *pharmaceutical composition*.

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20. A method for identifying and providing modulators of G-protein mediated signal transduction comprising contacting a cell which contains a growth-factor receptor capable of being activated with a test compound suspected to be a modulator of G-protein mediated signal transduction and determining the degree of growth-factor receptor activation.

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